United Nations

Press Release

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

• Security Council votes to establish formal cease-fire to end Persian Gulf war as soon as Iraq notifies Council of its acceptance of provisions in nine-power resolution.

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The Security Council this afternoon voted to establish a formal cease-fire to end the Gulf war by adopting a nine-power resolution which provides for a formal truce only after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein agrees to be bound by all its provisions.

The resolution, sponsored by France, Romania, the United Kingdom and the United States, was adopted by a vote of 12 in favour, 1 against (Cuba), with 2 abstentions (Yemen, Ecuador).

By the resolution, the Council demanded that the Iraqi Government respect the inviolability of the internationally recognized boundary between Iraq and Kuwait as agreed and signed by both countries in 1963.

The Council requested that a plan be submitted by the Secretary-General within three days after consultation with Iraq and Kuwait for the immediate deployment of a United Nations observer unit to monitor the demilitarized zone, extending 10 kilometres into Iraq and 5 kilometres into Kuwait from the boundaries as agreed to in 1963.

Iraq was further requested by the resolution to destroy all chemical and biological weapons and all ballistic missiles with a range greater than 150 kilometres and to agree to on-site inspections to ensure compliance. The resolution also called for a continued ban on all arms sales and military technology for the indefinite future, and an unconditional agreement by Iraq that it will not acquire or develop nuclear weapons or material for their production. In addition, the Council called on Iraq to compensate Kuwait for the damage it caused during the invasion and occupation, and called for the creation of a compensation fund and the establishment of a commission to monitor the fund.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The Council decided that Iraq be allowed to freely import food and promised rapid approval of requests to send other items for humanitarian purposes.

It further decided that Iraq should facilitate the repatriation of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and extend all necessary cooperation to the International Committee of the Red Cross in its search for such nationals still unaccounted for.

Finally, the Council asked Iraq to condemn unequivocally and renounce all acts, methods, and practices of terrorism.

In a related development, a United Nations official told correspondents today that Turkey had requested a meeting of the Security Council on the situation in northern Iraq. France was also following up its initiative of yesterday, 2 April, pressing for a resolution on that same issue, he said.

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